

## Amendments to the Claims

### **1-20. (Cancelled)**

**21. (New)** A method for treating asthma comprising administering an effective amount of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a human, wherein the HGF comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the HGF is effective in suppressing airway inflammation.

**22. (New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the HGF comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

**23. (New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the HGF comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

**24. (New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the HGF is administered intravenously at a dose of about 250 to 1000  $\mu\text{g/Kg/day}$ .

**25. (New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the HGF or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof and a physiologically acceptable carrier are administered.

**26. (New)** A method for suppressing an inflammation reaction in bronchial asthma comprising administering an effective amount of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a human, wherein the HGF comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the HGF is effective in suppressing the inflammation reaction in bronchial asthma.

**27. (New)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the HGF comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

**28. (New)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the HGF comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

**29. (New)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the HGF is administered intravenously at a dose of about 250 to 1000  $\mu\text{g/Kg/day}$ .

**30. (New)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the HGF or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof and a physiologically acceptable carrier are administered.